

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment

October 23, 2018

Ms. Jillian Adair
Water Protection Division (3WP30),
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
1650 Arch Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Subject: District of Columbia response to EPA Region 3 data solicitation notice in support of revising Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for debris/floatables/trash in the Anacostia River watershed

Dear Ms. Adair:

In response to the subject data solicitation, please accept the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) data captured from projects implemented over the past decade to comply with the District's trash TMDL and our MS4 permit obligations. We take our obligations to restore the Anacostia to a fishable and swimmable river very seriously and stand ready to work with EPA to revise the trash TMDL.

Attached to this letter are data and a series of reports from trash programs and projects implemented by DOEE and the District Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD):

- 1) 2015 – 2017 Data collected by the DSLBD Clean Team Program
- 2) 2014 – 2016 MS4 outfall trash monitoring project
- 3) 2016 – 2017 MS4 instream trash monitoring project
- 4) 2013 – 2017 volunteer trash cleanup data collected in the Anacostia River and watershed
- 5) 2011 – 2018 data collected from the District's Anacostia River trash traps

FY15 – FY17 DSLBD DC Clean Team Program trash data

Attachment one contains trash data collected during fiscal years 2015 -2017 by the DSLBD Clean Team Program. The District's fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 31st. DSLBD funds non-profits throughout the city to hire unemployed residents to work on Clean Teams in business corridors throughout the District. One of Clean Team tasks is to pick up litter along these corridors. Each Clean Team weighs a sample of what they collect monthly. The average of those samples is taken and multiplied by 12 giving an annual average. DSLBD provides this data to DOEE which includes this in MS4 Annual Reports provided to EPA.

2013 – 2016 MS4 outfall trash monitoring project

Attachment two includes a summary report and a database from monitoring stormwater outfalls for trash conducted by the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) between 2013 and 2015. Per the District's 2012 MS4 permit, we were required to conduct monitoring for trash at six MS4 outfalls throughout the District. Data for four of those outfalls was collected in the Anacostia River watershed. Trash samples were taken during storm events at least three times per year at each outfall. The attached summary report for all three years includes descriptions on methods used to collect samples. The project database is also attached.

2016 – 2017 instream trash monitoring project

Attachment three includes annual reports and the project database from monitoring stream and river transects for trash conducted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in 2016 and 2017. Following the 2015 MS4 outfall monitoring conducted by AWS, DOEE, in consultation with EPA Region III, determined that outfall monitoring was too labor intensive and produced data of limited utility. DOEE awarded a new grant to COG to build on their instream monitoring project for trash being conducted in the Anacostia watershed in Montgomery County, MD and Prince George's County, MD. This monitoring approach is less labor intensive and provides a better assessment of whether the District is adequately reducing trash throughout the Anacostia watershed. This approach also helps to create a uniform, annual monitoring assessment of trash conditions throughout the entire Anacostia watershed in the District and Maryland.

2013 – 2017 volunteer cleanup data

Attachment four contains data collected from volunteer cleanups conducted throughout the District's portion of the Anacostia River watershed on annual basis between 2013 and 2017. DOEE conducts several volunteer cleanups per year in addition to non-government organizations (NGOs) located in the region. DOEE has strived to collect as much data as possible annually from all cleanups and provide these numbers in our MS4 Permit Annual Reports to EPA.

DOEE has learned that several NGOs intend to submit cleanup data they have collected to EPA Region 3 in response to this data call. In order to reduce redundancies, DOEE is only submitting data that it has collected, in addition to data from NGOs that have told DOEE they will not be submitting data to EPA for the data call.

Please note that details on how data are collected for each separate volunteer cleanup event are included in each of the attached spreadsheets.

2011 – 2018 data collected from the District's Anacostia River trash traps

DOEE works with NGOs and a contractor to manage eight trash traps in the Anacostia River watershed. Attachment five contains a series of spreadsheets with data on trash weight which has been collected from one or more of these devices since 2011. Subsequently, DOEE began working with its partners to collect additional data on weight and volume.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Matt Robinson of the DOEE Watershed Protection Division, Partnering & Conservation Branch, at matthew.robinson@dc.gov or (202) 442-3204.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JSeltzer', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Seltzer, PE
Associate Director
Water Quality Division

Attachments